

To whom it may concern,

First let me say that I have the utmost respect for what FCC is trying to accomplish with the proposed regulation changes. I recognize that the consideration of these proposals is an attempt by the FCC to meet the listening needs of as many people as possible. I applaud this and know that it is not an easy job. Those making these decisions are trying to consider everything from all angles and be as fair to everyone as possible, again an extremely admirable and tricky thing.

That said I must register my concern about some of the new proposed regulations, as they have the potential to put an undue burden on certain broadcasters and put certain broadcasters in a position to be discriminated against. This discrimination would result in many listeners not having their listening needs met. Keep in mind that sometimes one does not know one's listening needs until one stumbled across a radio station at three in the morning lonely and unable to keep one's eyes open much longer, or on the edge of giving up on a person, a dream or even a life. People reached by stations during these times do not know that it's going to happen, and stations that reach such people, are often transmitting a specific message that they believe to be true in hopes that that truth will call people back from the brink. In particular Christian radio does this. Radio stations such as K-LOVE, The Fish and The Effect transmit biblical messages and music in hopes that God, who they believe controls and can use everything, will use the messages and music to bring people back from the brink through strength they find in Christ. These stations aim to be there for people when they need someone to be there at times when there may be no one else. The stories told on stations like K-LOVE about averted suicides, abandonments and other darkness are real. I know because I have seen them. I have seen how the messages of Christian radio can bring revelation, hope and encouragement, I have experienced them.

I am a teacher in training who has washed out of one licensure program already and might have given up on a dream that I also believe is a calling had it not been for the messages of Christian radio. I am a granddaughter barely coherent with the loss of a grandmother until the song Homesick began playing on K-Love while we drove back from the funeral. In that song my grief was given expression and I was able to admit my emotions and begin to process them and give them to God. The same thing happened at my grandfather's memorial but this time the song was *Wish You Were Here*. The music helped me to feel joy for him as well as my own pain. I am a person from a hurting family that sometimes barely functions who finds expression of prayer, anger hurt, hope and relief in the music of Christian radio. I am a person who has a horrible tendency to make crushing mistakes who finds strength to keep trying, and most importantly I am a Christian person who finds a means to connect with others and God, as well as experience joy in the messages and music of Christian radio. K-LOVE is on when I travel with my friends, when we're being silly together, when we are connecting with each other.

As you can see Christian radio plays a major part in my life and in the lives of all who've written to you, as well as some who cannot. I know that the FCC would not want to interfere with this as their mission is to serve the people however; the fact is that some of the proposed regulation changes now under consideration would interfere with the Ministry of Christian radio, as well as the ministries of other religious radio stations. Perhaps without knowing it the FCC would put the First Amendment rights of many people in danger, as well as lowering the quality of their lives. For instance, the requirement that all radio stations report how much of what kind of programming is aired would provide those who are opposed to specific religious messages, particularly Christian messages which tend to be marginalized, with a weapon. Crying discrimination people seeking to make trouble could demand that Christian and other religious radio stations either taken off the air or compromise the messages they were created to send. For Christian broadcasters, and for many other religious broadcasters, this compromising would be a sin and they would not do it. Therefore they would be taken off the air or fined so heavily that they would be forced off. This would leave those reached by these ministries without any where to turn when they needed renewal or expression. It would also leave those in the darkness without the radio voice who may be the only one in a position to reach in and help them find their way. Forced relocations of headquarters would force many of these same stations off the air due to cost, and the presence of overseeing boards would open Christian and other religious radio stations up to the kind of deep-seated prejudice that ultimately destroys. Bottom line, there is no federal control over the purely of Christian messages preached from the pulpit, the purely Jewish messages preached in synagogues, or the purely Muslim messages preached in mosques, and the truth is that Christian and other religious radio programs are the same. They are organizations dedicated to the spreading of what those broadcasting them believe to be true no different than a church, synagogue or mosque, and they have the right to keep those messages pure without being punished for doing so. Reconsider these proposals in this light please! Don't take away our First Amendment rights because we believe in one true God, whatever we call him; don't take away what we need to make it through our days, our weeks and our lives!